

## City of Cambridge - Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting June 14, 2007 – Minutes Taken by Paul Schlaver

**Members Attending:** Kevin Douglas, F.W. Russell; Rob Gogan, Harvard University; Adam Mitchell, Save That Stuff; Judy Nathans; Cambridge resident, Paul Schlaver, Cambridge Consumers Council; Robert Winters, Cambridge resident;

**Guests Present:** Jim Ardolino, Superintendent of Solid Waste; Susan Cascino, Boston's Recycling Director; Kelly Dunn, Recycling Program Manager; Randi Mail, Recycling Director; Bob Cappadonna, FCR-Boston; John Nardone, Assistant Commissioner for Operations; Tina Crisafulli, Save that Stuff;

### “Recyclecraze” Contest Results

Kelly talked about the 2nd annual Recyclecraze recycling contest in the public schools that ran from January - April. It was quite a contest with some serious movement across the ranking board. The Peabody School came in 1<sup>st</sup> place, and was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place last year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner this year was DPW's neighbor, Cambridgeport School. Congratulations to both schools for their impressive efforts and performance.

During the four-month contest, the schools collectively recycled over **92 tons** of paper! That's a 33% increase compared to last year's contest. Recycling paper reaps huge environmental benefits. For every ton of paper recycled, we save 17 trees. During Recyclecraze this year, we were able to save **1,564 trees**. That's the equivalent of removing **82 cars** from the road in terms of avoided pollution. This is an amazing accomplishment, and DPW would like to acknowledge and congratulate all the schools for their contribution.

Kelly presented both of the winning schools with a trophy made from recycled material by artist Anna Johansson. Please congratulate everyone that participated this year.

### Boston's Single Stream Recycling Report

Susan Cascino, the Director Of Boston's Recycling program, was our special guest and detailed their new single stream pilot program in sections of Jamaica Plain and Roslindale ([read press release](#)). The pilot will run May-November with the goal to increase tonnage and recycling participation.

The biggest program barrier was the cost of the wheeled carts (toters). Ultimately, three

manufacturers agreed to donate 1000 carts each (Toter, Cascade and Rehrig-Pacific) for a total of 3000 toters for each household, 2000 95-gallon and 1000 65-gallon. However, Boston still had to pay \$25,000 for the toters to be fully assembled and shipped. Boston did consider the bag system used in NYC, but decided on toters.

The neighborhoods selected include triple-deckers, single-family homes, one-way streets, and dead ends.

Boston is working on putting together month to-month comparisons looking at this year vs. the same month last year. Before the program, the neighborhood was recycling 13%. Early data shows a significant increase in recycling tons, 89% the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. However, waste tons rose 12%, which could be from “spring cleaning”.

Susan showed outreach materials including a door hanger, a mailer, and a bi-weekly newsletter. Residents are also encouraged sign up for email updates on the program since this particular neighborhood had an active listserv and blog.

To date, there have been a few complaints regarding wheeling big carts up steps or too big for elderly. Pickup time is longer for the 1-person truck to attach and empty the toters. Revenue payments for recycling will decrease because of higher sorting costs. But if trash tons decrease, the overall program will be a financial success.

FCR in Charlestown is transferring all single stream loads to the Auburn facility. Bob said that when the single stream volume reaches 1,000-1,500 tons/month, Charlestown would be converted.